security; and although the compensation might be adequate where an early drawing ensued, the occurrence of a speedy redemption is, of course, entirely a matter of chance, which, in the case of a single bond or of a small holding, cannot be fixed otherwise than as an insecure question of probabilities.

III.—Ex DIVIDEND *(x d.)* AND Ex INTEREST *(x in.)*

It has already been mentioned that the symbols *x d.* or *x in.* will at periodical intervals be found attached to the quotation of prices, in the official list; and as the subject is usually perplexing to the investor, and of some practical consequence (at all events in the way of preventing a disappointed expectation sometimes entertained) it is desirable to furnish an explicit explanation.

The expression *x d.*[1] and *x in.* (the reader remembering that a dividend is a return upon capital which may vary from time to time, while interest consists of a fixed uniform sum percent) simply means that the sale or purchase of the stock so marked is exclusive of the dividend or interest, which has just been, or is about to be, declared (in the former case), or is just due, or is about to become due (in the second instance).

If a stock on sale carries with it the full current dividend or interest its price is stated to be *cum* (with) dividend or interest.

It seems reasonable at first sight that, if a person holds a stock at the time when a periodical dividend (the exposition throughout includes the case of interest) is declared, the right to that particular amount should not pass from him when the stock is sold. He seems, so to speak, to have earned it by holding to the date of its declaration, and its diversion to the purchaser would, on a first view, appear to inflict an injury upon the seller. But in obedience to the rules of the Stock Exchange (which form the undisputed authority upon the conditions of bargains) an investor may continue to retain the ownership of the stock some days after the declaration of a dividend and yet on selling he loses the title to its

payment. If he sell before a stock is marked *x d.* the dividend becomes the property of the buyer, although that dividend had been

[1] " x " standing for *ex,* without.